NORTHSTAR

3 | $2.95 USA $3.15 CANADA | MATURE FEBRUARY 1993

THE NEW STANDARD IN SHOCK HORROR!

SLASH

Alright, alright, before you say anything let me shut you up...I know there's no chapter of Zeitgeist in this issue. So allow me to explain before you start thinkin' you was jipped or somthin'.

James O'Barr is one of that rare breed of artists who actually cares about his work, and the people that support it. Meaning you, the fans. As I'm sure you've already seen, he is the consummate craftsman, lavishing a great amount of time and energy into each page he produces. And, as sometimes happens in this business, James was running a bit behind schedule. So, rather than have him rush, and do a slip-shod, half-ass job (which would piss-off him, you, & me), or wait for him to complete the work and delay the book (which would piss-off you & the distributors), we reached a compromise. One I hope we're all happy with.

The cover of this book is only part of it. But it's a nice part, wouldn't you agree? And, just for being patient, next issue you'll get more than you bargained for- a special extended chapter of Zeitgeist! That's right, more pages of O'Barr's violent black comedy...Hey, you honestly didn't expect him to stuff forty-two deaths into just eight pages now did you? Where the hell would he stick the word balloons?

Oh, and by the way, just because there's not a chapter of Zeitgeist doesn't mean that you've been jipped, for cryin'out loud. Everything in this issue is brand-spanking-new, not a speck of reprints.

So the issue is out on time. With a letter column, no less. Remarkable. This makes me happy, almost giddy. So keep writing, and we'll keep printing. And we'll do it on time.

Stay sick.

HYPE FILE • HYPE FILE • HYPE FILE

New format. Don't crab that it's hard to read you mugs, we got a lot to cram in here, so... **TUNES•The Jesus Lizard-Liar-Touch N' Go:** It throbs, baby it throbs. Another hysterically angry rant from Chicago's meastros of pure noise. **•Fudgetunnel-Teeth E.P.-Relativity/ Earache:** Absolutely hard-ass stuff certain to piss off the neighbors. Loud, crass, vulgar jackhammers, with plenty of feedback, as an added bonus. **•Insane Poetry-Grim Reality-Nastymix:** "Splatter Rap" best describes this stuff. If that sounds interesting, then it's for you. If it doesn't, then why the hell are you reading this magazine? **•My DyING BRIDE-as the FLOWER WITHERS-Caroline:** Sounds like an earthquake in a concert hall. Vocals by the latest graduate of the tracheotomy school of opera. I'm not sure of this one, but I keep listening to it, so go figure. **•Another Knitting Factory Tour-Various-Knitting Factory Works:** O.K., listen-this is a PROMO ONLY. But, if you're as resourceful as I think you are, you'll find it. Includes Negativland's "Long Distance Dedication", a live version of a U2 heavy sample that pissed off those Irish advocates of "freedom" so much that they had **Negativland's** last release pulled for copyright infringement. Plus, you get Casey "American Top Forty" Casem's pottymouth. REAL OUTTAKES from the countdown smuggled out by a disgruntled engineer. Case has got quite a bad temper, along with a totally filthy vocabulary to back it up. Delicious. Pick it up. **FLICKS • Reservoir Dogs-Miramax Films:** The meanest, most brutally sadistic film out there right now. Plus it's funny as hell. What starts out as a routine crime drama quickly transforms into an anxiety-riddled tale dealing with fucked-up loyalties and the consequences thereof. A major cringe. The soundtrack alone will forever change your perception of "the sounds of the seventies". Worth the full price of admission, which is saying a lot. **ZINES • Kreature Comforts -A Lowlife Guide To Memphis (or memphis on $12.96 a day):** Just what it sounds like, an essential primer for that apostolic journey to Graceland. Plus, a guide to the great, historic recording studios, or at least the street corners where they used to stand before the music industry got screwed up and wrecked everything for everybody. Send $2 +some stamps for postage to :Shangri La, 1916 Madison Ave. Memphis, Tn 38104 • **Beheadings-Needle Publications:** O.K., it's not really a zine, but I stuck it in here anyway. A gruesome little book of experimental prose & poetry, with a heavy emphasis on the visceral. Stinks of moral decay, but in a good way. Available for $3 ppd. to: Needle Publication, 2791 Jos St. Louis, Windsor, Ontario, Canada, N8T-2M7 *So sorry, last issue I forgot to list how you can get your hands on the ultra-cool zine **Speed Kills.** Just mail off $2ppd to Scott Rutherford, P.O. Box 14561, Chicago, Il, 60614. And hey, if you send for anything that you've read about in the Hype File, make sure to mention it with your order.

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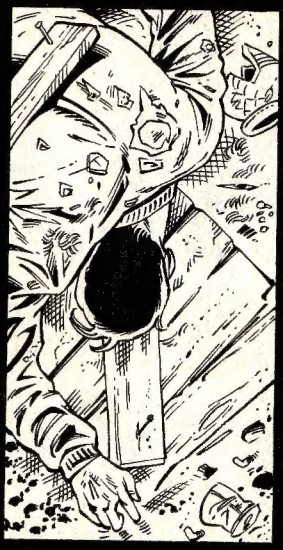
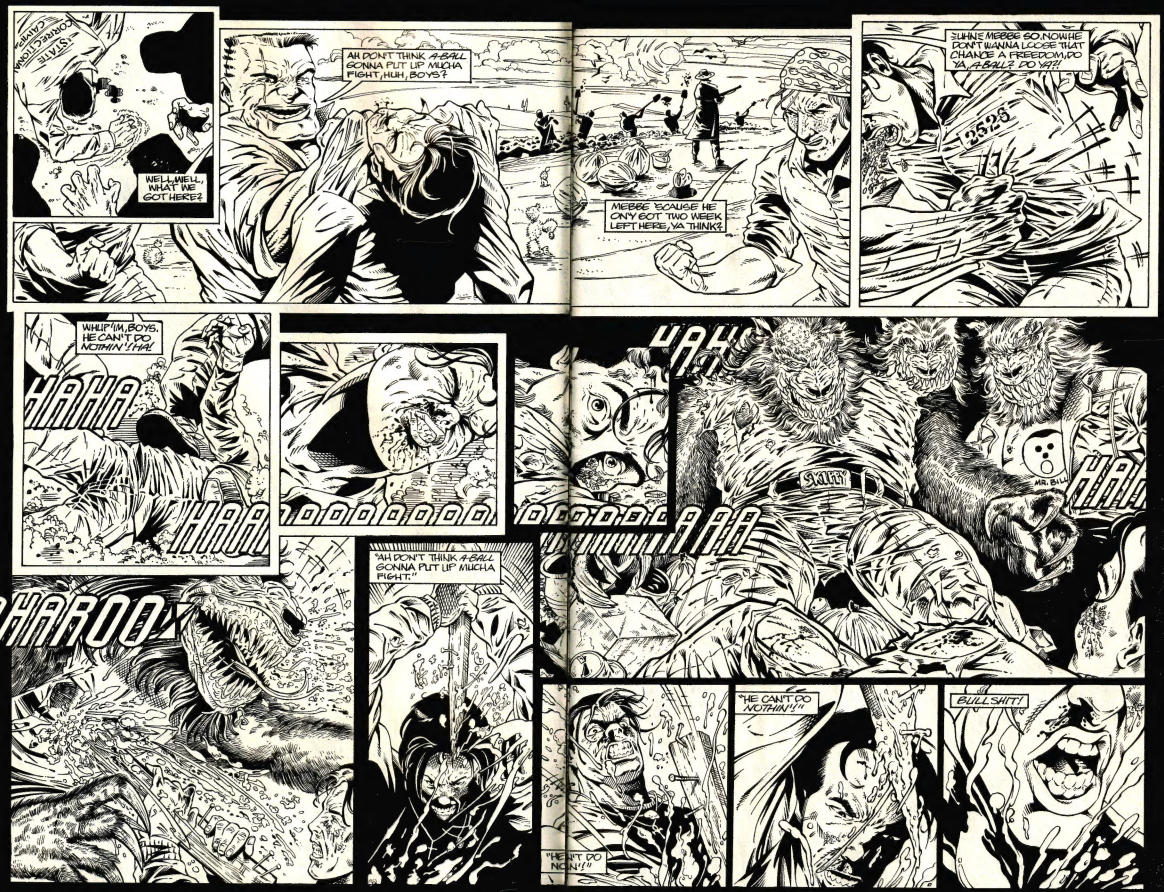
Neil E. Trais - Art Director • Brian Azzarello - Managing Editor • Jerry Liwanag - Operations Manager

HUNTING
PART 2
34 BEARS
PENCILS
INKS
ANDY DIMITT
PHIL MOY
MADE IN USA

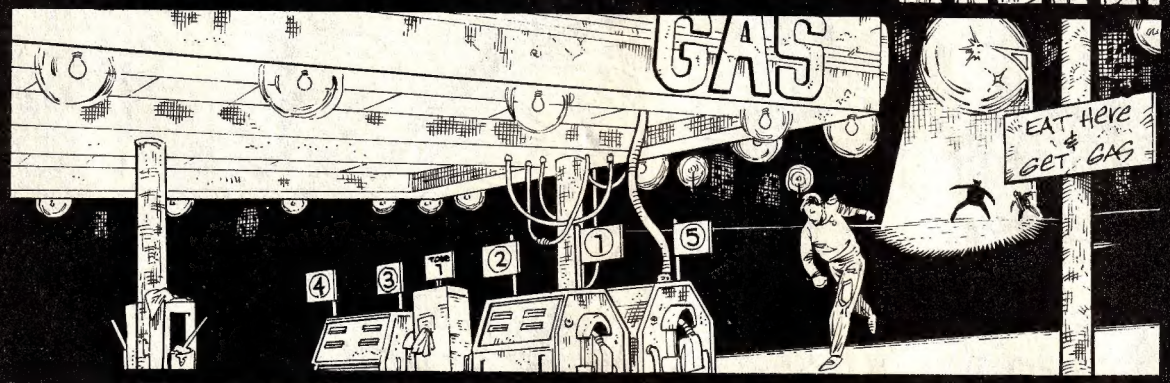
CRASH!

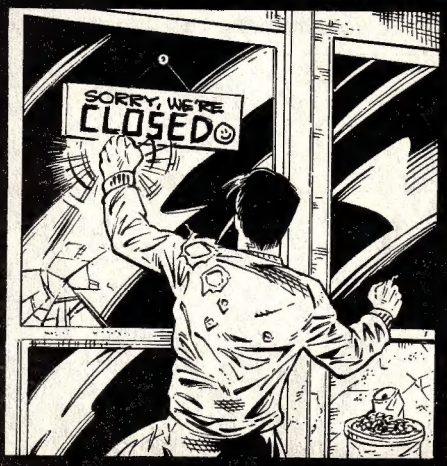


"WELL, WELL, WHAT WE GOT HERE?"


NATIE CONFESSION CAPTIONS
WELL, WELL, WHAT WE GOT HERE?
AH DON'T THINK 4-BALL GONNA PUT UP MUCHA FIGHT, HUH, BOYS?
MEBBE 'CAUSE HE ONY GOT TWO WEEK LEFT HERE, YA THINK?
SUWE MEBBE SO. NOWHE DON'T WANNA LOOSE THAT CHANCE A FREEDOM, DO YA, 4-BALL? DO YA?!
WHUP 'IM, BOYS. HE CAN'T DO NOTHIN'! HA!
HAHA
HAHA
HAHARDO
"AH DON'T THINK 4-BALL GONNA PUT UP MUCHA FIGHT."
HAH
SKRITT
MR. BILL
HA
"HE CAN'T DO NOTHIN'!"
"HE CAN'T DO NOTHIN'!"
BULLSHIT!

HAMMACHER SUCKS THE BIG ONE!!


GAS
EAT Here & GET GAS
4
3
TOME 1
2
1
5


SORRY, WE'RE CLOSED

WHAM

WHAM
WHAM

WHAM!
RGTSS
GAS -N- SOUP
NUDE TOPLESS GIRLS
GAS, FOOD DRINK
2% MILK 2.99
UNLEADED
WONDER
CHIPS
SKRITCH
WAIT...

C'MON, PLEASE DON'T.
WHAT ARE YOU?!

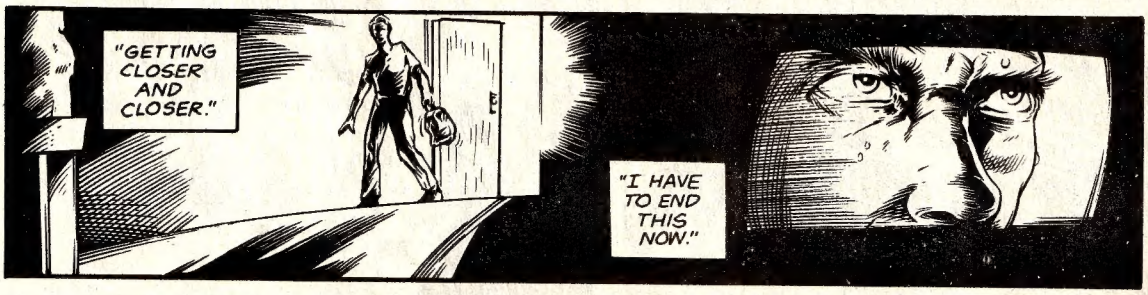
WE'RE SORRY. WE MADE A MISTAKE; GOT GREEDY. WE ONLY TAKE WHAT WE NEED. THE OTHER KID IS ENOUGH...
WE'LL LET YOU GO, JUST DON'T HURT US, KAY?

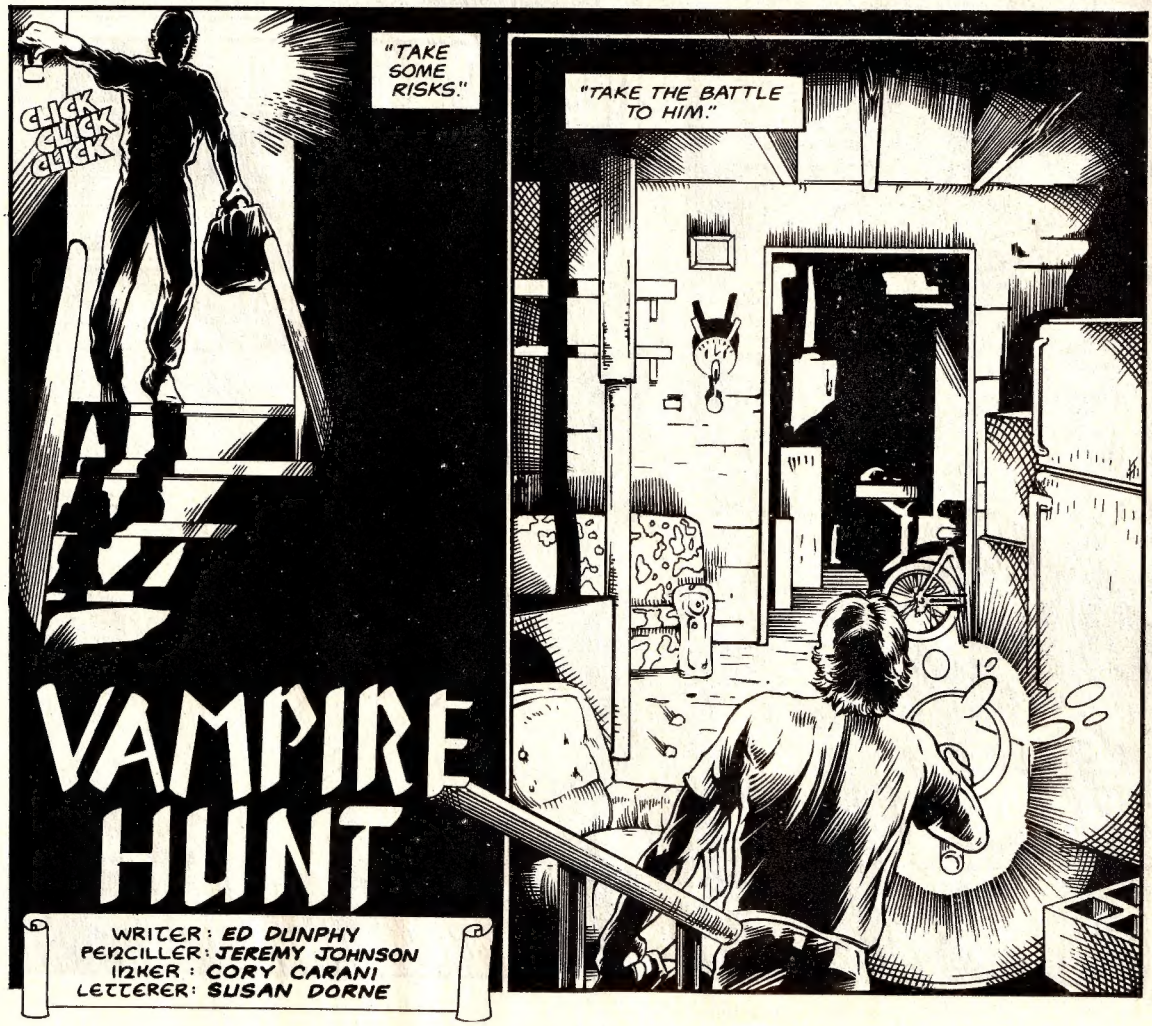
C'MON, MAN, YOU'RE NOT A KILLER.
I'M NOT! NOT A KILLER...

'COURSE NOT.
DIDN'T KILL ANYONE... DIDN'T...
SSHHH, YOU'RE NOT A KILLER...

WE ARE.

FWOOOSH
DEPOT
GAS 'N' ROUP
OFF...
GET OFF ME...
GET THE FUCK OFFA ME!
THERE'S MORE OF US, MAN! YOU CAN'T RUN...
YOU CAN'T HIDE...
YOU'RE DEAD, MAN, YOU HEAR...
DEAD!
BLACK HAWK
continued





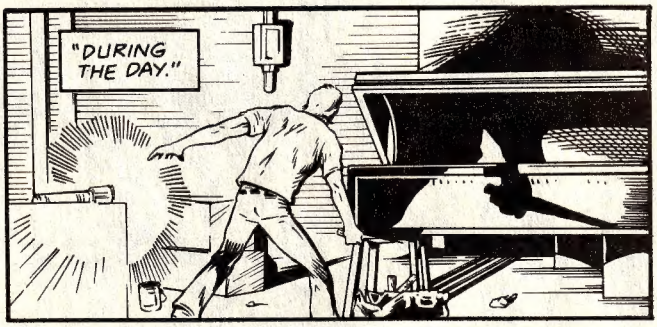
VAMPIRE HUNT

WRITER: ED DUNPHY
PENCILLER: JEREMY JOHNSON
INKER: CORY CARANI
LETTERER: SUSAN DORNE

"HE'S BUTCHERED MY FRIENDS AND ...COLLEAGUES."
"I'M NEXT."

"I'VE GOT TO GET HIM BEFORE HE GETS ME."

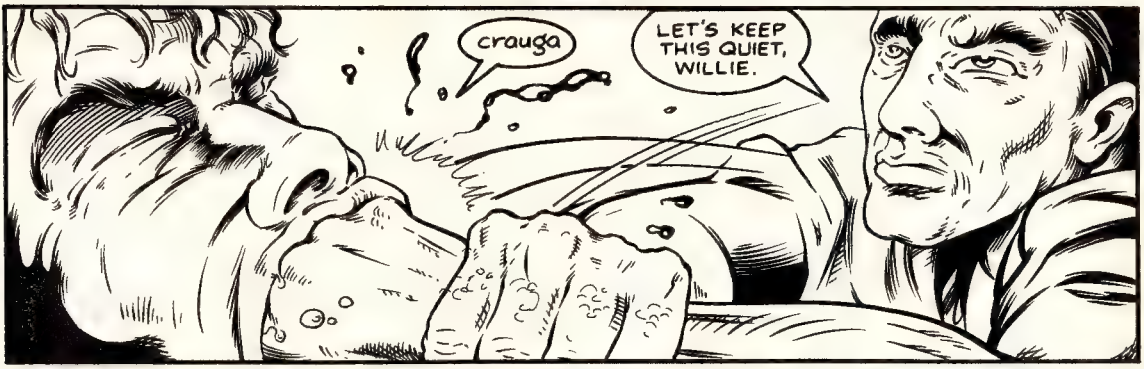
"FIND SOME WAY TO CATCH HIM BY SURPRISE."


"DURING THE DAY."

"WHEN HE LEAST EXPECTS IT."

"WHEN HE THINKS I'M ASLEEP."
SMAKK MAKK

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, YOU KNOW.
hhhuuugh!

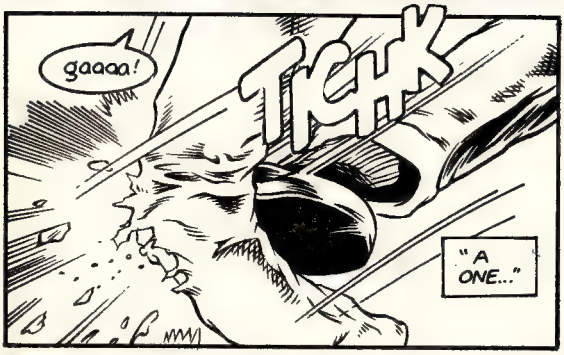

crauga
LET'S KEEP THIS QUIET, WILLIE.

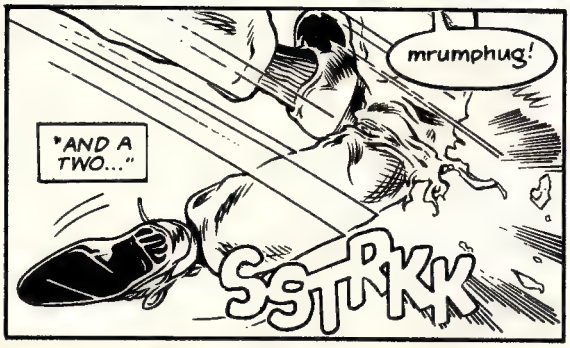
SHALL WE DANCE?

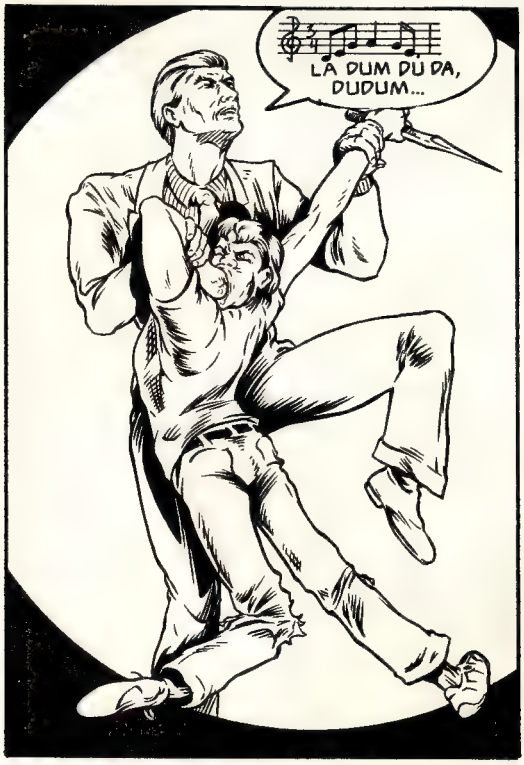
HYAH HA HAAA

I THINK I'LL LEAD.

READY?


gaaaa!
TCHK
"A ONE..."


mrumphug!
"AND A TWO..."
SQTPKK


LA DUM DU DA, DUDUM...

HUFF!
hhhmmmm!
SCRUNTCH!

"THAT'S WHY THEY CALL IT THE NUTCRACKER, DEAR."

VOMIT. YUCK.
MIND THE JACKET, PLEASE.
glaglagug.

HMMMM...

YOU KNOW, WE'VE BEEN DANCING AROUND EACH OTHER FOR MONTHS NOW, KILLING EACH OTHER'S CIRCLE OF FRIENDS.
"I WAS ACTUALLY AFRAID OF YOU."

"THAT'S WHY I LET YOU FIND ME. I NEEDED TO PICK MY BATTLEGROUND."

I EVEN...
YAWWW
...WENT TO BED HOURS EARLY IN ANTICIPATION.

WHAT IS SO INTERESTING OVER HERE... OH!
"DID YOU WANT THIS?"
KRCRACK
"WELL, WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?"
SKURK
HAVE IT! IT'S YOURS!
NOW YOU KNOW HOW IT FEELS.

OH MAN... WHAT A RUSH.

SO. WAS IT GOOD FOR YOU, TOO?

I ASKED YOU A QUESTION!

KRAK
GUSH

DAMN.
AND BLOOD IS SO HARD TO GET OUT OF SILK.
End

COMING IN

SPLATTER 6

HE'S BACK...

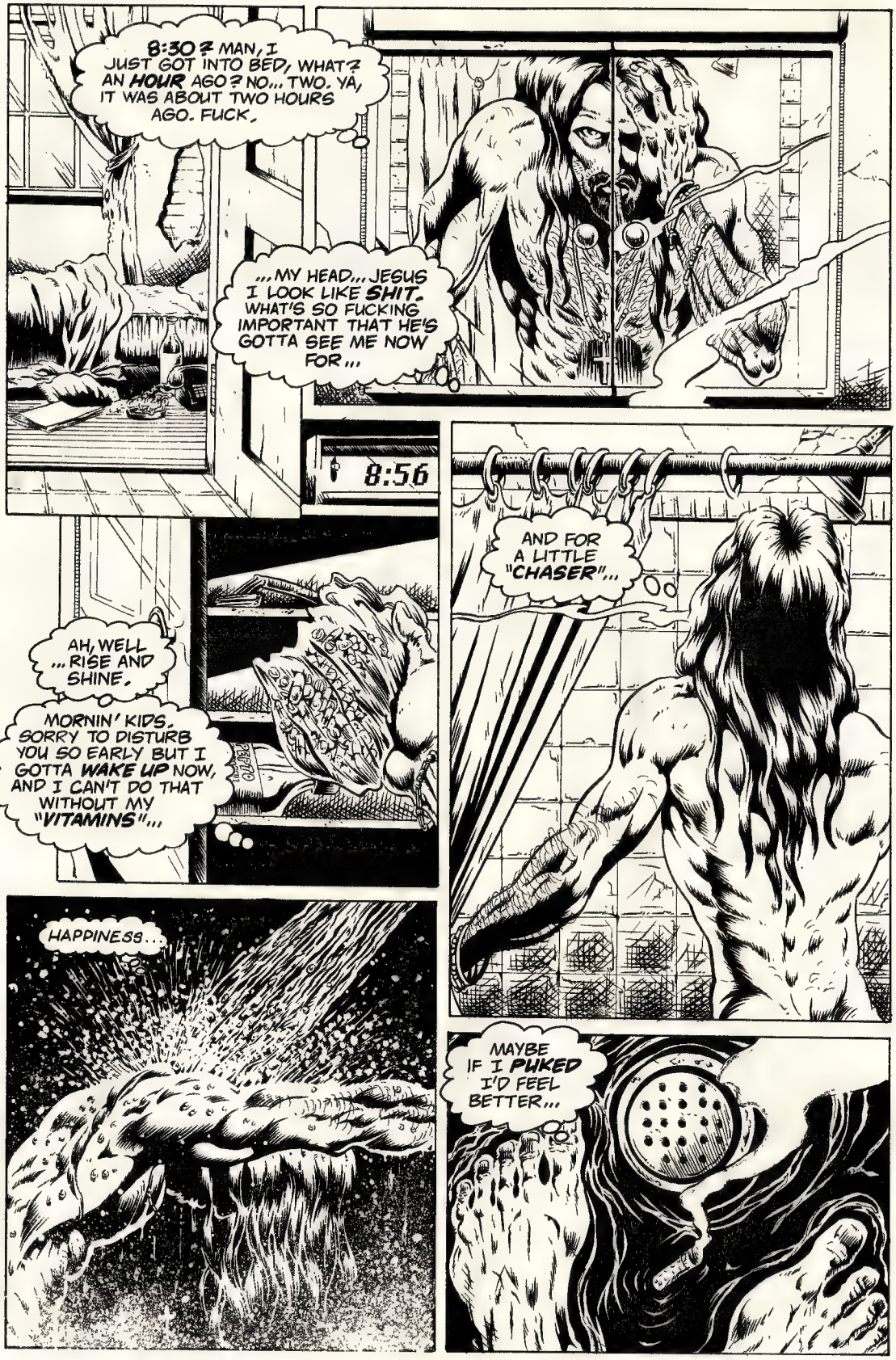
WITH AN ALL NEW CREATIVE TEAM!

KLOWNSHOCK

YOU'LL
DIE LAUGHING

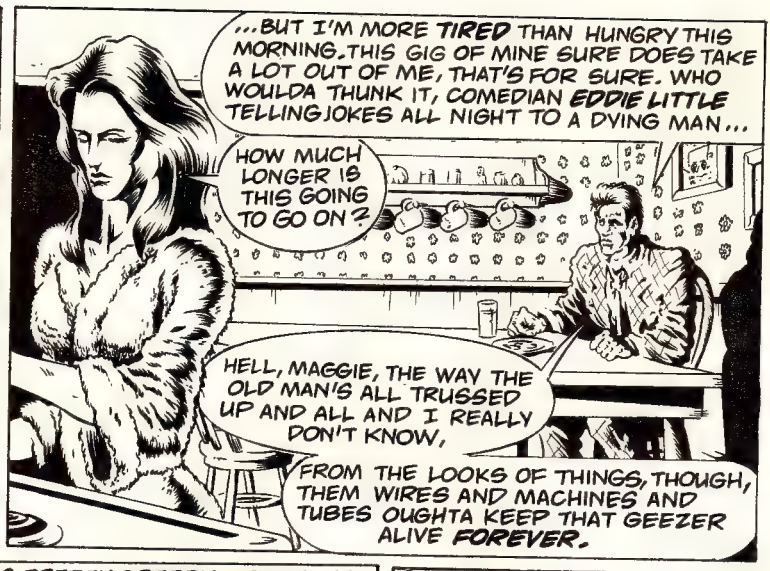
THE NEW STANDARD IN SHOCK HORROR!

8:23 A.M.
BDRING!
BDRING!
BDR
YA-- I MEAN, HELLO... YA, IT'S ME... WHAT TIME IS IT?!
...NO, I'M AWAKE... SO WHAT'S UP?... A ...YA, SURE-- I GUESS I COULD COME BY... SURE, MAYBE TONIGHT.
HUH? NOW? WELL... YA, ALRIGHT, YOU O.K.?... NO, IT'S JUST THAT YOU DON'T CALL ME THAT MUCH, AND NEVER THIS EARLY ...NO, I WAS UP... I DON'T KNOW, GIMME AN HOUR...
NO WAY, I NEED AN HOUR-- MAKE IT AN HOUR AND A HALF... NO, I CAN'T GET THERE ANY QUICKER...
HOW 'BOUT I JUST GIVE YOU A CALL LATER--?
...ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT ...I'LL BE RIGHT THERE ...IN AN HOUR OR TWO... I DON'T KNOW...
YA, I'M COMING NOW... BYE.


8:30? MAN, I JUST GOT INTO BED, WHAT? AN HOUR AGO? NO... TWO. YA, IT WAS ABOUT TWO HOURS AGO. FUCK.
...MY HEAD... JESUS I LOOK LIKE SHIT. WHAT'S SO FUCKING IMPORTANT THAT HE'S GOTTA SEE ME NOW FOR...
8:56
AND FOR A LITTLE "CHASER"...
AH, WELL ...RISE AND SHINE.
MORNIN' KIDS. SORRY TO DISTURB YOU SO EARLY BUT I GOTTA WAKE UP NOW, AND I CAN'T DO THAT WITHOUT MY "VITAMINS"...
HAPPINESS...
MAYBE IF I PUKED I'D FEEL BETTER...

BURN
Chapter Two: Pound Wise Or Otherwise
SOMEWHERE...
SOMEBODY...
...KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT WE WANT.
Frank Gomez words.
Kyle Holz pictures.
Joseph Allen letters.

THANKS, BABY. SMELLS DELICIOUS.


...BUT I'M MORE TIRED THAN HUNGRY THIS MORNING. THIS GIG OF MINE SURE DOES TAKE A LOT OUT OF ME, THAT'S FOR SURE. WHO WOULDA THUNK IT, COMEDIAN EDDIE LITTLE TELLING JOKES ALL NIGHT TO A DYING MAN...
HOW MUCH LONGER IS THIS GOING TO GO ON?
HELL, MAGGIE, THE WAY THE OLD MAN'S ALL TRUSSED UP AND ALL AND I REALLY DON'T KNOW,
FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS, THOUGH, THEM WIRES AND MACHINES AND TUBES OUGHTA KEEP THAT GEEZER ALIVE FOREVER.

CRACK!

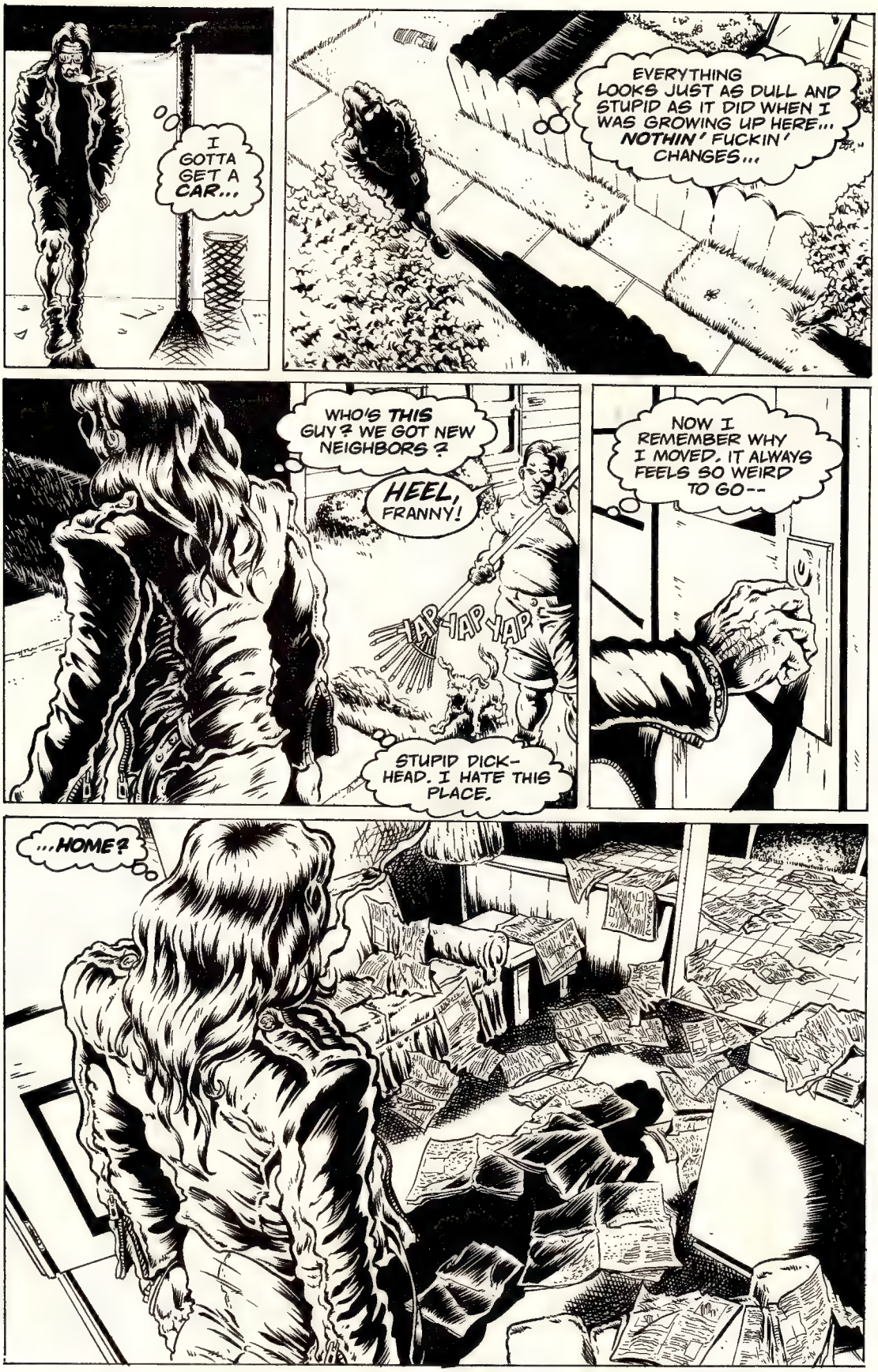
IT'S PRETTY CREEPY, HONEY. HE LAUGHS AT WHATEVER I SAY, IT DON'T MATTER IF IT'S A JOKE OR NOT.

HE JUST KEEPS LAUGHIN' AND LAUGHIN'. GOOD THING HE'S ALREADY IN THE HOSPITAL, 'CAUSE HE'S LIABLE TO BUST A GUT ONE OF THESE NIGHTS...
HA, HA. I'LL HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT ONE.
IS EVERYTHING O.K. WITH US, ED?

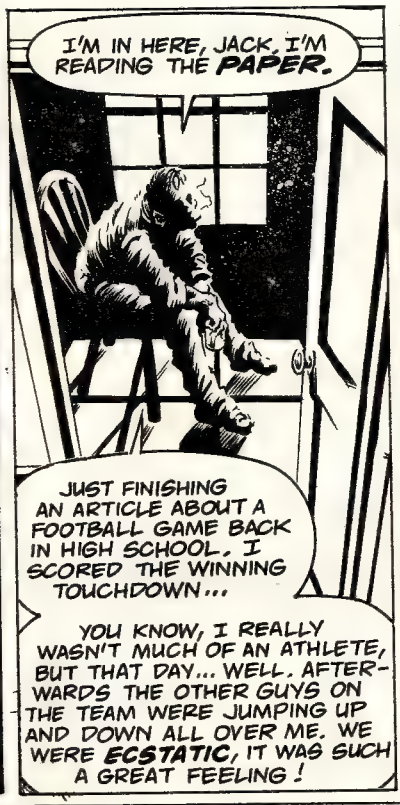
HUH? WHY SURE BABY, EVERYTHING'S O.K.... I MEAN, I KNOW IT AIN'T BEEN EASY WITH ME WORKIN' ALL NIGHT, BUT, WELL, THE MONEY, I MEAN, YOU KNOW... WE NEED IT. I'VE NEVER MADE MONEY LIKE THIS IN A NIGHT CLUB BEFORE. JUST A LITTLE WHILE LONGER, SUGAR. I'LL GET A BREAK, YOU'LL SEE.
YOUR BREAKFAST, EXCUSE ME, DINNER IS READY.

SOMETHIN' ELSE ON YOUR MIND, BABY?

I WONDER WHAT'S UP WITH THE OLD MAN. HE SEEMED PRETTY STRESSED ON THE PHONE...
...I SHOULD'VE GRABBED A COFFEE BEFORE I GOT ON THIS TRAIN... I'M STILL PRETTY CRISPY... HEY...
NICE TITS...
AND JUST WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO, BRO'...
HEY, BAG LADY... THAT REMINDS ME, I'VE GOTTA DO SOME GROCERY SHOPPING, TOO... REAL NICE TITS...
THIS DUDE MUST BE ON HIS WAY TO THE TRACK, WHICH IS NOT A BAD IDEA... MAYBE LATER.
COUPLE OF KIDS, BORED AS I AM...
HEY--
POP!
NO SMOKIN'... ON THE TRAIN, HANDSOME.
JESUS CHRIST, MAN. EVERYBODY'S NUTS.


I GOTTA GET A CAR...
EVERYTHING LOOKS JUST AS DULL AND STUPID AS IT DID WHEN I WAS GROWING UP HERE... NOTHIN' FUCKIN' CHANGES...
WHO'S THIS GUY? WE GOT NEW NEIGHBORS?
HEEL, FRANNY!
YAP-YAP YAP
STUPID DICK-HEAD. I HATE THIS PLACE.
NOW I REMEMBER WHY I MOVED. IT ALWAYS FEELS SO WEIRD TO GO--
...HOME?

WHAT TH-- DAD!?
DAD!!!


I'M IN HERE, JACK. I'M READING THE PAPER.
JUST FINISHING AN ARTICLE ABOUT A FOOTBALL GAME BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL. I SCORED THE WINNING TOUCHDOWN...
YOU KNOW, I REALLY WASN'T MUCH OF AN ATHLETE, BUT THAT DAY... WELL. AFTERWARDS THE OTHER GUYS ON THE TEAM WERE JUMPING UP AND DOWN ALL OVER ME. WE WERE ECSTATIC, IT WAS SUCH A GREAT FEELING!

FUNNY, I FORGOT ABOUT ALL THAT. BUT THEN, I JUST READ HOW MY MEMORY'S NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE.

HMMM... OR IS THAT JUST ANOTHER ONE OF MY EXCUSES? ANYWAY, COME ON IN. WE'VE GOT A LOT TO TALK ABOUT, AND I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH TIME I'VE GOT LEFT.

DAD... WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT? WHAT'S WRONG? --IT'S JUST THE STINKIN' NEWSPAPER, FOR CHRIST SAKE!
NO IT ISN'T, JACK. YOU'RE NOT... SEEING WHAT I AM, ARE YOU? JACK, EVERYTHING IN HERE, EVERY WORD IS ALL ABOUT ME. EVERYTHING I'VE EVER DONE... WANNA BEER? I'VE HAD PLENTY.

IT SAYS SO RIGHT HERE. IT'S THE STORY OF MY LIFE.

I HAD THE DREAM AGAIN LAST NIGHT. IT'S REALLY SCARING THE HELL OUT OF ME... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...
I FEEL SO FRAGILE--MY NERVES ARE LIKE GLASS. IT'S REALLY SCARING THE HELL OUT OF ME.
I--I GUESS I'M JUST NOT USED TO SLEEPING ALONE.
SIGH... IT'S MORE THAN A DREAM, THOUGH. IT'S TOO VIVID--IT'S SO REAL. THOSE... BABIES ARE REAL, AND THEY'RE KILLING ME.
AM I MAKING ANY SENSE? I'M SORRY, I'M JUST SO FRAZZLED, I CAN'T CONCENTRATE, I--
IT'S JUST... I CAN'T EVEN TALK TO ED, I... I DON'T THINK I LOVE HIM ANYMORE, AND THAT SCARES ME TOO.
OWW! WHAT--
DAMN IT! I MUST HAVE CUT MYSELF WHILE DOING THE DISHES!
OH... COME HERE, DEAR, AND LET ME HAVE A LOOK AT IT.
I THINK I CAN MAKE THINGS ALL BETTER... JUST A PIECE OF BROKEN GLASS.
CONTINUED.

LETTERS

SEND ALL LETTERS, HYPE, ART ETC. TO:SLASH C/O NORTHSTAR PUBLISHING 2551 N. CLARK STREET, SUITE 402, CHICAGO, IL 60614

Dear Northstar,

A few words...

Slash is worthwhile and interesting, more so than a lot of things out there passing for "horror". For the most part, I agree that you are based around quality. However, let me dissect the book and point out a few possible areas of improvement.

First off, I think the Hype File is great! It places you, sets you right into things. I believe what you're acknowledging is so important and vital...and I spend more time searching out obscurities than most!

Secondly, The Hunting actually seems a bit too basic, sort of very predictable. I will, however, give it more time.

As for Zeigeist and Burn, both stories captured my interest remarkably well...please keep up the good work!

Mark C. Laliberte
Windsor, Ontario

Well Mark thanks for the feedback. I hope you'll find the material in this issues' expanded hype file easier to come by, but obscure enough to add to your enjoyment. We want more readers like you, committed readers who will make Slash a significant part of their lives.

•

To the Editorial staff at Northstar,

What have you done to my comic? How dare you? I mean Slash #1 was fantastic but #2? This should have been your #1, it blows the doors off of most of the crap around! You idiots, if this were a #1 you would have sold a million! Maybe more! What the hell were you thinking?

What do I mean? Zeitgeist is O'Barr's greatest work to date. Those two brothers are so cool, I can't wait to see what's next. How long is this series going to run? Hopefully, quite a while. You've got yourself a long time fan here.

As for your back-up stories, well, let's just say these are leads for any other book. The Hunting doesn't look like any independent horror story I've ever seen. This art looks like it's from one of the majors, which in this case, is O.K. Has Andy Dimitt been published before? I don't recognize his name, and I'd like to see more of his stuff.

Like I said, you really screwed up. This should have been a #1. Boneheads.

Sam Farr
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Look at it this way Sam— Slash #2 had the debut, i.e. first, appearences of three new ongoing series, so essentially it was three #1s all rolled into one #2. That ought to satisfy the collector in you. As for Andy, no, he hasn't been widely published before. Be on the lookout in the coming months for information regarding a major series that Andy will be pencilling.

•

Northstar,

You're really on to something here. Right now, I think you'll agree with me that there's somewhat of a glut in the horror comics market. Most of it's shit. Slash, however, rises to the top. The material that you're publishing is among the best in the business. Some might say this is no great feat. Not me though.

As a longtime reader of horror (both in comics & books) I've been a bit dismayed with the direction the genre has been headed in. Good storytelling seems to have taken a backseat

to ongoing characters with some sort of mystical power. In other words, occult superheroes. If that was what I wanted, I'd buy D.C. The reason I buy independent comics is because they offer something the major companies can't: an unabashed, nondilluted honesty that doesn't cater to the majority, not a pale imitation of the status quo.

Happily, Slash falls into the former category. I was suitably impressed with the quality of your second issue. And, as all three stories are serialized for upcoming issues, I'm certain that the quality will remain at the high standard that you've set for yourselves. Not that you need it, but good luck.

H. Vallechetti
Sherman Oaks, California

We'll take your wish of good luck H. Needed or not, it is appreciated.

•

Dear Northstar,

My Mom took my copy of Slash #2 away. She said it was gross and disgusting, and that I shouldn't have it. Well, seeing that I'm thirty-four years old, I thought she was a little out of line, so I returned to my local comics shop to pick up another copy. Lo-and-behold, it was sold out, and it had been since late in the first day it hit the stands. The shop owner was very happy about this, since a lot of what he orders tends to stay on the shelves a few months. This doesn't do me any good though. Could you please send me another copy? I promise not to let my Mom know I've got it.

John McMurphy
Fallon, Nevada

O.K. John, we won't penalize you just because your mother wanted Slash for herself. You do bring up a serious point though. Drawing from our vast information network, we've discovered that this book is selling out all over this great nation of ours. This is no cause for celebration however. Rather, it just goes to show you that dealers are not ordering enough copies for everybody that wants one. So demand more from your store! Make sure that the shelves are well-stocked with fine, wholesome Northstar product, keeping America save from the threat of foreign invasion and the second Ice Age. Be sure to do your part. Or simply order directly from us. It's your choice as a free, patriotic American.

•

Dear Northstar,

I don't get it. Burn reminds me of a French film. Really interesting, great to look at, but I don't get it. It's left me feeling very uneasy, and that's never happened due to a comic before. Don't get me wrong, I'm hooked. But I don't get it. Do it to me again.

Tina Bradstreet
Portland, Oregon

Oui Tina, there are those here who would be happy, more than willing, to burn you again and again in those different dark places just to hear you moan softly until your mind is gone. Never doubt. Stay with us awhile, and soon all will become clear.

•

To Northstar,

Slash kicks serious ass!

Tim Miller
Witchita, Kansas

Funny ass too, I think.

Attention Artists!

Send us copies of your drawings, etchings, or bloody palmprints to include on these pages.

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